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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

Washington, D. C.

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January 22, 1957

Wheat Seedings Reduced

Farmers have sharply reduced seedings of winter wheat. Crop Reporting Board says seedings for 1957 crop are down from '56 by nearly a fifth and down from average by almost a third. Such reduction indicates that farmers have weighed the drought threat in leading wheat States as well as the acreage-reduction inducements of the Soil Bank Plan.

More Moisture Needed

Much wheat in the Great Plains has made only a fair start...as of January 1, needed much more moisture to fortify plants and firm soils against cutting winds. Outside the Great Plains and parts of California, prospects are generally favorable for fall seedings of grains, legumes and grasses.

December snowfall was mostly light. More would be welcome for cover and moisture...will be badly needed to build snowpacks in western mountains to replenish irrigation water supplies, critically low in much of the Southwest.

Hay Adequate, Scarce in Drought Areas

The 73.5 million tons of hay on farms January 1 were higher than the 1946-55 average by 5 percent and within 3 percent of the record high reached a year ago. Stocks will be adequate in total and ample in many sections, but are low in the central and southern Great Plains. Field forage cleanup by livestock, which lasted late and was unusually complete on most farms, has saved many tons of high priced hay.

Lower Wheat Stocks

Stocks of wheat on farms January 1, at 293 million bushels, are 8 percent below a year earlier and 21 percent less than the 1946-55 average of 368 million. Farm stocks are the lowest since 1941. About one-fourth of the farm stocks on hand January 1 was wheat from the 1956 and earlier crops under Government loan, about the same percentage as a year earlier.

Other Stocks on Farms, January 1

Corn--2,331 million bushels, second only to the record in 1949 of 2,480 million. Current farm stocks are 5 percent above year ago and 13 percent above the 1946-55 average.

Oats--696 million bushels, smallest for January 1 since 1940. Current farm stocks are a fourth smaller than the 942 million a year earlier and one-sixth less than 10-year average. Farmers held less of this grain on January 1 than a year earlier in all regions except the South Atlantic States.

Barley--160 million bushels, down from a year earlier by 32 million but 34 million more than the 10-year average. Four States (North Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, California) had three-fifths of the total January 1 farm holdings.

Sorghum Grain--59 million bushels, 18 percent less than the 72 million a year ago but considerably above the 48 million average.

Rye--7.3 million bushels, only about half as large as the previous year but 13 percent above average. Two-thirds of the farm holdings were in Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Nebraska.

Soybeans--169 million bushels, highest of record. These farm stocks are 45 percent above a year earlier and 14 percent above the previous high reached in January 1955. The 1946-55 average January 1 farm stocks, only 79 million bushels. Farm stocks of soybeans are higher than last year in all producing areas. But, as usual, the bulk of the farm storage is in the North Central States--largely in Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa.

Flaxseed--22 million bushels, record high, 31 percent above a year ago, and topping the 10-year average by 83 percent. Nearly 71 percent of the total is in North Dakota, with most of the remaining stocks located in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Montana.

More Oranges Than Last Season

The 1956-57 orange crop (including tangerines) is expected to total 139 million boxes, 1.5 million

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Nov. 15, 1956	Dec. 15, 1956	Dec. 15, 1956
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)..... ct.	31.88	30.99	35.81
Wheat (bu.)..... dol.	2.05	2.07	2.46
Rice (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.55	4.57	5.58
Corn (bu.)..... dol.	1.21	1.22	1.79
Peanuts (lb.)..... ct.	11.0	11.0	13.4
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Butterfat in cream (lb.)..... ct.	60.4	59.6	74.0
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.61	¹ 4.55	4.74
Wool (lb.)..... ct.	² 44.4	² 45.6	61.8
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.)..... dol.	1.01	1.03	1.36
Cottonseed (ton)..... dol.	59.20	59.90	71.40
Flaxseed (bu.)..... dol.	3.05	3.05	4.54
Hay, baled (ton)..... dol.	21.90	22.70	24.10
Oats (bu.)..... dol.	.724	.744	.870
Potatoes (cwt)..... dol.	1.53	1.52	2.38
Rye (bu.)..... dol.	1.24	1.20	1.71
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.)..... dol.	2.11	2.14	2.64
Soybeans (bu.)..... dol.	2.27	2.27	2.95
Sweetpotatoes (cwt)..... dol.	3.70	4.38	5.14
Oranges, on tree (box)..... dol.	1.87	1.57	2.77
Apples, for fresh use (bu.)..... dol.	2.79	3.05	2.86
Beef cattle (100 lb.)..... dol.	14.60	14.10	21.80
Calves (100 lb.)..... dol.	15.40	15.40	23.90
Hogs (100 lb.)..... dol.	14.20	16.20	21.60
Lambs (100 lb.)..... dol.	17.50	17.40	24.00
Chickens, all (lb.)..... ct.	15.7	16.0	28.9
Eggs (dozen)..... ct.	37.2	37.1	46.8

¹ Preliminary.

² Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

more than last season and about 20.3 million above average. Forecast is broken down as follows: Early and Midseason oranges, 71 million boxes; Valencias, 63 million; tangerines, 5 million.

Smaller Grapefruit and Lemon Crops

Grapefruit production, forecast at 43 million boxes, will be about 5 percent less than last season and 10 percent below average. California lemon crop, at 13.6 million boxes, will be about a million boxes less than last season but nearly a half million more than average.

Big Crop of Winter Potatoes

Production of winter potatoes, forecast Jan. 1 at 7,570,000 hundredweight, would be 44 percent above the 1956 production of 5,260,000 cwt and more than double the 1949-55 average of 3,554,000 cwt. The January forecast is up from that of December by 125,000 cwt.

Growers of late spring potatoes report intentions to plant 170,800 acres in '57. This would top the acreage a year ago by 3 percent but would be about 9 percent under that of '55.

Record Production of Seed Potatoes

Certifying officials in 29 States reported that 51,574,355 bushels of certified seed potatoes were

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan.-Nov. 1955	Jan.-Nov. 1956
<u>Dairy Production</u>			
Milk.....	Bil. lb.	¹ 123.5	¹ 127.0
Evaporated whole milk.....	Mil. lb.	2,427	2,388
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	Mil. lb.	1,305	1,379
Butter, creamery.....	Mil. lb.	1,280	1,306
Cheese, American.....	Mil. lb.	943	942
Ice cream.....	Mil. gal.	591	612
<u>Poultry Production</u>			
Eggs.....	Billions	¹ 59.5	¹ 60.8
Poultry meat ¹	Mil. lb.	3,569	4,310
Canned poultry.....	Mil. lb.	165.3	178.8
Liquid egg.....	Mil. lb.	449	452
Dried egg (egg solids).....	Mil. lb.	22.7	20.5
Frozen egg.....	Mil. lb.	339	342
Chicks hatched-Total ³	Millions	¹ 1,853	¹ 2,113
Chicks hatched-Broiler ³	Millions	¹ 1,205	¹ 1,424
Poults hatched ³ :			
Heavy breeds.....	Millions	¹ 52.6	¹ 68.5
Light breeds.....	Millions	¹ 15.9	¹ 14.6
<u>Meat Production²</u> (dressed weight)			
Beef.....	Mil. lb.	12,099	12,945
Veal.....	Mil. lb.	1,374	1,422
Pork.....	Mil. lb.	8,882	9,404
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	683	674
Total red meat.....	Mil. lb.	23,038	24,445
<u>Slaughter²</u>			
Cattle.....	1,000 head	23,616	24,674
Calves.....	1,000 head	11,384	11,492
Hogs.....	1,000 head	65,544	71,832
Sheep and lambs.....	1,000 head	14,910	14,870

¹ January-December

² Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

³ By commercial hatcheries.

produced in 1956, largest production of seed stocks of record. It exceeds last year's total by 24 percent and is 18 percent larger than the 1945-54 average. Bulk of the increase is in Maine, the leading potato producing State, and in North Dakota, Minnesota, California, and Oregon.

Milk Output About Steady (Per-Capita)

Milk production in December, at 9,278 million pounds, was 1 percent above that of a year earlier and 15 percent above the 1945-54 December average. On a per capita basis, the daily rate of 1.77 pounds for each person was the same as a year earlier, but higher than the 10-year December average of 1.72.

Production in the 12 months of 1956 totals nearly 127 billion pounds (tentative) compared with 123.5 billion in '55 and 117.1 billion for the 1945-54 average. Final production figures for 1956 will be published February 14.

Production per milk cow in crop reporters' herds on January 1 averaged 18.21 pounds...above

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1955		1956		
	Dec.	Yr.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹	Mil. 58.3	Mil. 56.5	Mil. 59.0	Mil. 59.1	Mil. 59.4
Farm employment.....	6.1	8.2	9.5	7.4	5.8
Family.....	5.0	6.3	7.1	5.8	4.8
Hired.....	1.1	1.9	2.4	1.6	1.0
Index numbers (1947-49 = 100)					
Industrial production ²	144	139	146	147	147
Total personal income payments ³	157	152	165	165	---
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	164	152	169	168	171
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	148	145	155	156	159
Wholesale prices, all commodities ⁴	111	111	116	116	116
Farm commodities.....	83	90	88	88	89
Food, processed.....	98	102	104	104	103
Consumer price index ⁴	115	114	118	118	---
Food.....	110	111	113	113	---
Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)					
Prices received by farmers.....	222	236	234	234	237
Crops.....	226	237	232	239	240
Food grains.....	221	228	225	232	234
Feed grains and hay.....	170	187	178	182	185
Cotton.....	264	272	270	270	262
Tobacco.....	455	437	453	443	461
Oil bearing crops.....	232	250	249	262	264
Fruit.....	208	212	232	218	216
Vegetables for fresh market.....	217	233	203	264	277
Livestock and products.....	219	236	236	230	234
Meat animals.....	201	249	245	231	239
Dairy products.....	266	252	272	277	275
Poultry and eggs.....	204	188	167	164	165
Prices paid by farmers:					
All commodities.....	259	262	265	267	267
Used in living.....	273	273	279	281	282
Used in production.....	243	249	250	252	251
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index).....	278	281	287	289	289
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted.....	518	516	550	550	550
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index).....	80	84	82	81	82

¹ Bureau of the Census.

³ Department of Commerce.

² Federal Reserve Board.

⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics.

previous record high of 17.40 for January 1 last year and 25 percent above average for the date.

Record Egg Production

The 60,837 million eggs produced in 1956 was a record--2 percent above 1955 and 7 percent above the 1945-54 average.

Hens laid 5,241 million eggs in December, also a record for the month. Compares with 4,976 million in December 1955 and 4,420 million the 10-year average.

The yearly rate per layer on hand in 1956 was 196 eggs, compared with 192 in 1955 and the average of 170.

Small Increase in Layers

The 337.6 million layers on hand January 1 compared with 332.4 million a year earlier. Number increased 1 percent last month, from December 1 to January 1, compared with a 1 percent decrease a year earlier and the 10-year average increase of 2 percent. Potential layers (including all pullets as well as laying hens) totaled 364.4 million January 1 up 1 percent from a year earlier, but 10 percent below average.

Farmers Get Less for Eggs and Poultry

Eggs averaged 37.1 cents per dozen to farmers in mid-December. This compares with 37.2 in mid-November and 47.1 in December 1955. Farm chickens and commercial broilers brought producers an average of 16 cents per pound liveweight in mid-December compared with 19 cents a year earlier. Farm chickens averaged 13.5 cents, commercial broilers 16.9 cents compared with 17.9 and 19.4, respectively, year earlier.

Poultry Feed Higher Than Year Ago

Cost of the poultry ration, mid-December prices, was \$3.56 per 100 pounds compared with \$3.54 in mid-November and \$3.38 a year earlier. The egg-feed, chicken-feed and turkey-feed relationships were all less favorable than a year earlier.

Fewer Winter Vegetables

Winter vegetable production in 1957 is expected to be about 7 percent less than in 1956, though about 3 percent above average. Decline is principally due to drought and shortage of irrigation water in Texas. Sharpest reductions from 1956 are for beets, cabbage, carrots and lettuce; smaller crops also of lima beans, broccoli, celery, shallots, and spinach. Increases are expected for artichokes, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, sweet corn, cucumbers, escarole, green peppers, and tomatoes.

1957 Hog Prospects

The 1956 fall pig crop was down 4 percent and farmers planned December 1 to reduce the spring pig crop 2 percent. This indicates that hog slaughter during most of 1957 will remain below 1956, though by year's end the difference is expected to be small. Prices of hogs during most months of 1957 and perhaps throughout the year will likely be above 1956. (More details in the January "Livestock and Meat Situation," AMS, USDA.)

4 Percent More Cattle on Feed

Cattle and calves on feed for market in the U. S. January 1, estimated at 6,099,000, were up 4 percent from a year earlier. In the North Central States, numbers were up 5 percent while only a slight increase occurred in the 13 Western States.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, November 1956¹

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Maine.....	8,613	5,213	13,826
New Hampshire.....	4,361	489	4,850
Vermont.....	7,699	575	8,274
Massachusetts.....	10,760	7,134	17,894
Rhode Island.....	1,464	487	1,951
Connecticut.....	10,306	6,658	16,964
New York.....	50,077	11,985	62,062
New Jersey.....	15,799	7,173	22,972
Pennsylvania.....	46,137	11,931	58,068
North Atlantic.....	155,216	51,645	206,861
Ohio.....	52,897	42,720	95,617
Indiana.....	50,162	33,168	83,330
Illinois.....	94,790	71,714	166,504
Michigan.....	30,443	30,700	61,143
Wisconsin.....	72,424	7,588	80,012
East North Central.....	300,716	185,890	486,606
Minnesota.....	80,985	59,861	140,846
Iowa.....	183,903	42,318	226,221
Missouri.....	60,632	43,406	104,038
North Dakota.....	20,216	55,759	75,975
South Dakota.....	41,955	11,081	53,036
Nebraska.....	62,888	22,788	85,676
Kansas.....	41,050	20,294	61,344
West North Central.....	491,629	255,507	747,136
Delaware.....	6,128	4,429	10,557
Maryland.....	11,593	6,921	18,514
Virginia.....	20,644	52,144	72,788
West Virginia.....	8,519	2,675	11,194
North Carolina.....	19,134	113,243	132,377
South Carolina.....	8,284	26,009	34,293
Georgia.....	25,714	30,120	55,834
Florida.....	11,586	43,792	55,378
South Atlantic.....	111,602	279,333	390,935
Kentucky.....	20,147	42,291	62,438
Tennessee.....	18,205	32,838	51,043
Alabama.....	16,340	28,187	44,527
Mississippi.....	12,751	37,903	50,654
Arkansas.....	14,675	61,277	75,952
Louisiana.....	10,425	30,656	41,081
Oklahoma.....	23,682	20,923	44,605
Texas.....	62,077	162,348	224,425
South Central.....	178,302	416,423	594,725
Montana.....	25,990	23,922	49,912
Idaho.....	11,337	35,355	46,692
Wyoming.....	14,120	6,109	20,229
Colorado.....	26,476	19,582	46,058
New Mexico.....	15,233	20,846	36,079
Arizona.....	11,286	54,862	66,148
Utah.....	9,976	6,323	16,299
Nevada.....	1,212	1,232	2,444
Washington.....	15,885	47,320	63,205
Oregon.....	13,653	26,584	40,237
California.....	84,234	318,041	402,275
Western.....	229,402	560,176	789,578
United States.....	1,466,867	1,748,974	3,215,841

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts from Farming, United States ¹

Source	Nov. 1956	Dec. ² 1956
	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Farm marketings and CCC loans ³	3,216	2,700
Livestock and products	1,467	1,300
Meat animals	806	
Dairy products	342	
Poultry and eggs	301	
Other	18	
Crops	1,749	1,400
Food grains	152	
Feed crops	229	
Cotton (lint and seed)	483	
Oil-bearing crops	262	
Tobacco	137	
Vegetables	103	
Fruits and tree nuts	187	
Other	196	
Government payments	90	
Total cash receipts	3,306	

¹For comparison of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

²Preliminary.

³Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1955 average	\$ 975	\$ 396	\$ 579	41%
1955-Nov.	962	371	591	39
1956-Oct.	991	397	594	40
1956-Nov.	984	390	594	40

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.
For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

More Sheep and Lambs on Feed

The total of 4,468,000 sheep and lambs on feed for market in the U. S. January 1 was up from a year ago by 207,000 head or by 5 percent. The number for the 11 Corn Belt States, 2,424,000 head, was 10 percent more than the number on feed in those States a year earlier.

More Schools in Special Milk Program

The number of schools taking advantage of USDA's Special Milk Program in September 1956 had increased 33 percent over the number a year earlier and milk consumed under the program increased about 40 percent.

Increase in School Lunch Participation

The number of children taking part in the National School Lunch program continued to increase in September, with the number of schools taking part up nearly 5 percent over September 1955.

Federal funds available for this program were increased from \$83 million in 1955-56 to \$100 million for the current fiscal year. States and local communities contribute about \$4 in funds and services to each \$1 provided by the Federal Government.

Farm Employment Continues Downward

The 5,811,000 persons (farm family and hired) at work on farms late in December were fewer than a year earlier by about 4 percent, continuing the downward trend. The number of hired workers decreased only 2 percent; family workers, 5 percent.

Farm Wages Higher

Farm wage rates are at a record high level for the country as a whole. Seasonally adjusted wage rate index for January 1 was 554 compared with 522 a year earlier, and composite rate per hour was 78½ cents compared with 74 cents year earlier. January 1 farm wages averaged higher than a year earlier in all geographic regions.

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